

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The distinguished Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

SENATOR JIM EXON

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to Senator JAMES EXON, who is completing his third term in the Senate and has unfortunately, decided to retire. His retirement caps a long and distinguished career of public service unique to his home State of Nebraska. JIM EXON and I have served together on the Armed Services Committee, and I have admired his strong support of our national defense. At the same time, as a conservative, and as ranking member on the Senate Budget Committee, Senator EXON has had a practical, direct, moderate temperament which has put him in tune with national sentiment on the need to control spending. He has been a leader of efforts to balance the budget, and that includes a need to reduce defense spending where possible, given the end of the cold war, and particularly in tempering the tendency to throw too much money on expensive new hardware systems.

JIM EXON is against waste and he has put his legislative shoulders behind that effort. He would agree with William Shakespeare, who wrote in *King Henry V*:

I can get no remedy
against this consumption of
the purse: borrowing only
lingers and lingers it out,
but the disease is incurable.

JIM EXON will be missed here. I shall miss his candid style, his no-nonsense temperament, and his refreshing directness, all of which are mixed with a down-home sense of humor. As a Senator, JIM EXON has always retained a modest sense of himself, never succumbing to the inflation of ego, which is a constant temptation in a body so much in the national limelight.

Senator EXON's success as a three-term Senator follows a string of other successes. After graduating from the University of Omaha in 1942, he volunteered for the U.S. Army Signal Corps and served in the Pacific theater in New Guinea, in the Philippines, and, finally, in Japan, and was honorably discharged as a master sergeant in December of 1945. He returned from the war to start a business career and developed a very successful office equipment company.

At the same time, he followed in his family's political footsteps. His grandfather served as a county judge in South Dakota, and JIM's early grassroots experience came in campaigning for his grandfather there. JIM started in politics by becoming a prominent leader of the Nebraska Democratic Party, serving as State vice chairman and National Committeeman.

JIM came to the Senate in 1978 after having served as the Governor of Ne-

braska for two terms from 1970-1978, longer than any other person in that State's history. The experience served him well. He was rewarded by the people of Nebraska when he achieved the unique accomplishment of having been elected directly to the United States Senate.

JIM EXON comes from the heartland of America and is an admirable reflection of the values, the solid citizenship, and the loyalty that characterize our heartland. He reflects the basic American values that honor family, fiscal responsibility, and national security.

Last year in the context of landmark telecommunications reform legislation, he was the author of a provision intending to protect children from computer pornography by making it illegal to send indecent material to a child or display it on computer screens where children can access it.

He has been, as well, a leader in protecting American businesses from takeovers by foreign firms in the area of national security. Known as the Exon-Florio law, passed in 1988, this act gave the President authority to investigate and stop foreign takeovers of American companies in the case where the takeover would threaten U.S. national security.

JIM EXON is rock solid. This year he and his wife, Patricia, will have celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary, which goes to show that you can still stay married to your first wife a long, long time. He returns to Nebraska to join his three children, Steve, Pam, and Candy, along with his eight grandchildren, a very wealthy man he is indeed—eight grandchildren.

In citing his reasons for retirement, JIM EXON laments recent trends in American politics, such as the "vicious polarization of the electorate," the erosion of the art of honest compromise as the essence of the Democratic process, and the negative attack ads dominating current political campaigns. As he departs, I hope that he will be a continuing force against these trends and that he, at least, will help inculcate in the new men and women who are entering politics in Nebraska the same values of fairness; good humor; practical, independent sense—common sense—and honest achievement that have so clearly emphasized and characterized his own career.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The absence of a quorum has been suggested. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DAVID PRYOR

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I have come to the floor this morning to pay

tribute to my distinguished retiring colleague, DAVID PRYOR.

When I think about Congress suffering—and I use the term "suffering" advisedly—the largest number of retirees in 100 years, I have a tendency to wax eloquent about my own personal beliefs as to why that is happening. There are 13 Senators who have chosen to leave voluntarily this year. Among them are some of the very best.

I have confessed on occasion when I didn't think it would hurt me politically to the fact that I am not a terribly effective legislator because I have a very difficult time compromising. I have strong beliefs, and sometimes compromise is just out of the question for me. And, yet, we all know that 535 Members of the Congress cannot each have his or her own way on every issue.

But the people who are retiring are essentially people who are very good legislators because they understand the art of politics; the necessity for compromise. And I call them "bridge builders"—because they don't let stand between them differences in philosophies and personalities. As the U.S. Senate has become more ideological and more entrenched in hard core ideas, where name calling somehow or other has become the substitute for ideas, we need bridge builders.

DAVID PRYOR was born in Camden, Ouachita County, AR, in 1934 to very devoted parents. All of DAVID's life manifest in his personality and character is the unexcelled upbringing he enjoyed.

He graduated from the University of Arkansas Law School in 1964 with an LLB degree, went home to his native Camden and established a newspaper called the Ouachita Citizen that he operated for 4 years. During that period of time he was also elected to the Arkansas State legislature, to the House of Representatives, for three terms—1960, 1962, and 1964.

I remember—I guess it was 1966—when DAVID was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. It was in 1968 that I met him for the first time, and that was just one of those typical political handshakes. The Democratic Party was having a forum in Little Rock. I had the itch to run for Governor in 1968. Luckily for me I chose not to do it that year. But DAVID PRYOR spoke at this meeting in Little Rock in 1968. And I was absolutely awe-stricken—he was good looking, articulate, and had some very good ideas. And I thought how wonderful it must be to serve in the House of Representatives and be able to come here and say these things for this giant crowd here this evening. And it only piqued my interest in running for office that much more.

So besides my father, who actually encouraged me to go into politics when I was a child, DAVID was my next inspiration because of that evening in Little Rock in 1968.

After losing a race for the Senate in 1972, he came back in 1974 and ran for Governor and won handily, and served